

AN ACT

relating to the availability of certain working papers and electronic communications of certain administrative law judges and technical examiners under the public information law.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 552.144, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 552.144. EXCEPTION: WORKING PAPERS AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES AND TECHNICAL EXAMINERS AT STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS AND RAILROAD COMMISSION. The following working papers and electronic communications of an administrative law judge at the State Office of Administrative Hearings or of a technical examiner or administrative law judge at the Railroad Commission of Texas are excepted from the requirements of Section 552.021:

(1) notes and electronic communications recording the observations, thoughts, questions, deliberations, or impressions of an administrative law judge or a technical examiner;

(2) drafts of a proposal for decision;

(3) drafts of orders made in connection with conducting contested case hearings; and

(4) drafts of orders made in connection with conducting alternative dispute resolution procedures.

SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to

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1 a request for public information received by a governmental body or
2 an officer for public information on or after the effective date of
3 this Act.

4 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

H.B. No. 3516

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3516 was passed by the House on April 29, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 117, Nays 30, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3516 was passed by the Senate on May 28, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 1.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor